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The Weekly Trade Circular.

APRIL 18, 1872.

CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM GERMANY.

CHURCH AND STATE IN GERMANY.—THE GREAT CONVENTION OF PRINTERS.—SCHOOLS FOR PRINTERS AND BOOKSELLERS.—SCHULZ'S BOOK-TRADE DIRECTORY.

LEIPSI, March 27.—There was a time when Germans were content to "let good enough alone," in their own fatherland at least. This was when Germany was merely a common denominator for every variety of states and fractions of states. But now Germany is a united empire, "and the eyes of the world are upon it." A spirit of improvement and change is visible everywhere, and there is scarcely an art, a trade, or an association that is not submitted to its searching investigation.

THE CONFLICT BETWEEN CHURCH AND STATE continues almost unabated. Since the reorganization of the army, nearly ten years ago, no question has taken such hold of all classes of society. In the removal from office of Herr v. Mühler, minister of public education and worship, the people hailed with pleasure the banishment of the system that for ten years has most seriously interfered with the freedom and progress of German schools. His successor is Dr. Falk, hardly known to the people at large, but who has begun his régime with some innovations and appointments that are steadily winning the confidence of the public. The chief cause of dissatisfaction for many years has been the usurpation of power and control in the management of the schools. It has been an understood thing that the clergyman of every parish was one of the board of trustees of the school of that parish, without any qualification or ceremony of election being required. This is now changed, and if the clergyman be not specially appointed to the office, he is entitled to no voice in the questions of school government. The people do not seem to trust to the judgment of the state with blind confidence, but look upon its rule as the lesser evil, and thus far seem willing to abide by its decisions. The right of choice has now been given to students of high schools and colleges in matters of religious instruction. Hitherto all have been fed on the same nourishment, regardless of individuality or any other influences.

GREAT CONVENTION OF PRINTERS AND TYPE-FOUNDERS.

The master printers and type-founders held a great convention in Eisenach on the 10th of the month, by invitation of the Stuttgard Society of Master Printers. The causes that led to the calling of the convention were varied, but the chief one was the great strike of the Stuttgard printers, which has caused their employers so much loss and annoyance for many weeks past. The masters had insisted upon introducing fixed prices for certain kinds of work, on the plan of the Leipsic schedule, which, since the great strike of 1870 in the latter city, has been found to work most admirably. A movement has been on foot for some time to introduce such a schedule, with necessary local modifications, in all the printing establishments of Germany. The Stuttgard printers have shown a tenacity of purpose and union of forces in their opposition that has almost exasperated their masters. The government allowed soldiers to work on state publications that were already promised by contract,

but since the 22d they have again been ordered to their posts.

The convention did not meet to frame laws, but to make suggestions and discuss thoroughly the state of feeling between employers and men, which is very bitter just now in all parts of Germany. The resolutions adopted were sent to the German Printers' Association, which has already called a general convention to Leipsic on the 27th of April, when they will endeavor to frame new laws and modify old ones in accordance with the best interests of employer and employee. This association is a union of the master printers and type-founders, which was organized some years ago for the purpose of counteracting by united action the steadily increasing power of the printers' unions throughout the country. The Stuttgard employers made their appearance in a slightly unchristian spirit, which can be readily understood, and for which they cannot be severely blamed. The strike occurs at a time when business is very brisk and when much former loss and dulness is to be compensated for.

Three hundred printing establishments were represented by sixty-four owners and delegates, while two hundred more sent their written acceptance and approval in advance of all that might be decided and undertaken. Thus the convention expressed the opinions of five hundred firms.

At a preliminary meeting on the evening of the 9th, Mr. Ed. v. Hallberger, of Stuttgard, in a long speech explained the object and establishment of the German Printers' Association, and defined its present position. He thought it admirably organized and managed for times of peace, but said it had some weak and vulnerable points, which had been shown to great disadvantage during the constantly-increasing troubles between masters and men. One of the suggestions he made was the organization of a general fund for the support of men who stand by the masters in opposition to their Unions and fellow workmen. He said that many men would do so but that they fear to lose the support of their societies in case they become disabled or are deprived of their earnings by sickness. He urged the importance of enforcing the Leipsic schedule for the present, but said that the objections of the men must be heard, and their wishes and wants, together with their employers' interests, be considered and worked up into a mutually satisfactory schedule.

The general meeting began with the following resolution: All those present not yet members of the German Printers' Association declared their intentions to become members; thus all the suggestions made to the Association may be looked upon as the expression of the wishes of members. The most important decisions were the following: If a difference occurs between an employer and his men, or between the united men and the employers of a whole city, the employers shall be bound to lay the case before a committee of the German Printers' Association, and reduce it from a personal matter to a question of general trade interest. The committee shall be required to judge in the shortest possible time both the difference and the manner of settling it, and the appealing members shall be required to abide by its arbitration. If, in spite of these measures, a strike or unlawful attack of the united printers should occur, the German Printers' Association shall be bound to protect the attacked, and the participants in a strike shall obtain no employment in any establishment of the Association until the strike is ended.

The introduction of one code of laws in all printing establishments was generally insisted upon.

It was almost unanimously agreed that the official organ of the association is to be supported and spread. There is to be a fund for the purpose, and every member is to receive one copy of the paper free, and pay a cheap subscription for each additional copy. The paper is to add to its columns a standing list of all employers looking for men, together with the rates of work in their respective cities. Every two or three years the paper is to publish a directory of all the printing establishments, together with statistical information and new inventions in the art of printing and its allied branches. There were other discussions of merely local interest. The tone of the convention was quiet and healthy, and all interested parties are now eagerly looking forward to the day that is to give their ideas shape and substance, and lead to the much needed reforms in the relations of masters and men.

SCHOOLS FOR PRINTERS

are in existence in all parts of Germany. One of the largest and best organized is in Stuttgart. Apprentices and artisans attend them largely, and are taught the theory and practice of printing and kindred arts, as well as a general knowledge of foreign languages, and an accurate knowledge of the types of all languages they are likely to meet in their calling. German printers are very accurate, and for some time many English books have been sent to Germany to be set up, but returned to England to be bound, as Germany cannot yet compete with England in this important branch of trade.

THE BOOKSELLERS' SCHOOL.

There has been a booksellers' school at Leipsic for some time, but it does not yet meet the requirements of the students, and after Easter there is to be a higher division organized. Leipsic is the metropolis of the book trade, and is the most fitting locality for an institution of this kind. The course of instruction in the new department will be divided into three classes, and will demand three years' study; it is to embrace the literary as well as the practical side of the business, and thoroughly to fit a young man for the varied duties and interests of his calling. In the third class (first year) will be taught the German, French, English, and Latin languages, German literature, the science of commerce, mathematics, geography, history, natural sciences, drawing and writing. Second class (second year) will take up Italian and Greek, the study of the types and written characters of ancient, especially of the Oriental languages, English, French, Italian and Spanish literature. Most of the studies of the first year are continued throughout the course. First class (third year) takes up old classic literature, bibliography, booksellers' technical information, business management, statistics, history of the present time, history of the book trade, aesthetics, elocution and debate. The yearly fees are to be ninety thalers for the third and second classes, and 100 thalers for the highest class. Pupils receive thirty-two hours' instruction a week. This new and brilliant enterprise begins its first term on the 15th of April. Pupils are admitted throughout the year. It has been suggested that instruction should be added in the theory of the art of printing. Printers who have had occasion to work for booksellers have often expressed themselves astonished by the great ignorance they have shown of the simplest details of typography, which in many cases leads to serious misunderstandings, and almost always causes great expense and waste of time. Such questions as, "What will be the price per sheet of a work on natural history, with illustrations?" without any mention of the type or of the size; remarks such as, "If you only get a part of the edi-

tion out before October, the rest can wait till New Year," are single instances of the constantly displayed ignorance of tyro publishers. It has been proposed to allow the students to visit the printing establishments of the city, but this will hardly be of much benefit unless they have been initiated into the why and wherefore of the puzzling things they will see. The Board has been asked to give due consideration to the lack in this direction.

SCHULZ'S DIRECTORY FOR THE GERMAN BOOK TRADE, 1872,

has now appeared, and is an inexhaustible treasure of information. It is divided into six parts. The first contains the names and addresses of all firms and persons connected with the book trade and associated branches; the second specifies the branches of business alphabetically, and gives the names of all firms connected with each branch; the third gives an alphabetical list of all firms at home and abroad, represented by the commission business throughout Germany and Switzerland; the fourth gives a chronological record of the establishment of all now existing firms, business changes, deaths, etc., etc.; the fifth contains miscellaneous trade information, such as an account of the numerous general and local associations of the book, music and art trades; list of German and foreign advertising agencies and special trade advertising mediums; list of importers of foreign books, giving ten firms devoted to American publications; auctioneers of books and works of art; publishing firms disposing of electrotypes of their illustrations, etc., etc.; the sixth is devoted to a booksellers' geography, a summing up of the principal cities and towns, their railroad accommodations, number of inhabitants, influx of strangers, etc., besides naming the firms and branches of trade of each place. There is an index to the places mentioned and described, in which each university town is marked with an asterisk. It is a wonderful book, and in Germany sure of a sale, as it is almost as indispensable to the bookseller as his daily trade journal, the "*Börsenblatt*."

I thought these items might be interesting to the readers of the *TRADE CIRCULAR*. They have crowded out the news and gossip I had been gathering for my letter, which I shall however work up in my next communication. H. A.

CONTENTS OF PERIODICALS.

American Exchange and Review.—April.—The Constitutional Convention of Pennsylvania and its Work.—A Universal Language.—The Persistence of Certain Customs in Rudimentary Forms.—Public Expenditures, their Increase and Diminution.—Our Lecture System.—Mining and Metallurgy.—Insurance.—Railways and Transportation.—Patents, Arts, and Science.—Monetary.—Noting and Commenting.

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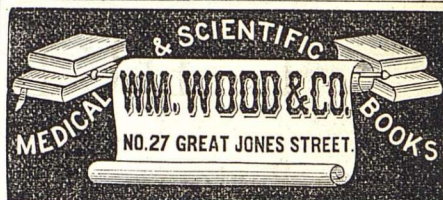
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